

NEWS RELEASE

Idaho Department of Water Resources



Release 2007-03

MEDIA ALERT

DOE to Present Wind Development Award to Boise Company

Boise, Idaho – January 10, 2007

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Five Boise men will be honored with a special award for their wind generation efforts by the U.S. Department of Energy on Jan. 17 at the Lewandowski Wind Farm east of Boise.

Brian Jackson, Lars Dorr, Tim Harmon, Craig Haynes and Todd Hanes, co-owners of G3, LLC, a Boise company, will receive the Wind Powering America's Carpe Ventem (Seize the Wind) Award during a short ceremony at the wind farm site about 10:30 a.m.

(See note below for directions to the Lewandowski Wind Farm.)

"This award was originally designed to recognize the developers of the first commercial scale wind farm project in the state," says Lawrence Flowers with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory managing DOE's Wind Powering America program. "Since its inception, WPA has given the award to the inaugural projects in Idaho (Fossil Gulch), Montana, and New Jersey.

"The Lewandowski project re-invigoration, while not exactly meeting the original award criteria, was deserving of recognition for showing unusual commitment to the success of wind energy development in a wind-challenged state," says Flowers.

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The wind farm was originally constructed by Bob Lewandowski beginning in February 2002. The first turbine began generating electricity in late October 2002, followed by the second turbine about 21 months later. The third turbine was turned on in the spring of 2005.

After seeing his 30-year dream come to fruition, Lewandowski died suddenly in late July 2005. After his death, it was discovered there was little documentation of how the equipment was assembled, required maintenance procedures, or operating guidelines. With no one to maintain the equipment, the turbines stopped spinning within a short time.

About a year ago G3 bought the wind farm. The team, which includes three mechanical engineers, an FAA licensed airplane mechanic, and an electrician, began repairing the turbines. The wind farm began creating energy by late spring.

“Getting the turbines back online was not easy,” says Todd Haynes. “Lots of time has been spent on the learning curve.”

The wind farm has three 152-foot towers with turbines capable of generating 324 kilowatts of electricity. Considering variations in wind, the turbines provide an average annual output of about 80 kW – enough energy to supply the electricity needs of 66 average Idaho homes.

The power, purchased by Idaho Power Co., feeds into the electric grid and is balanced by the electricity use of nearby neighbors.

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Note: The Lewandowski Wind Farm is located on Simco Road about a mile south of Interstate 84. From Boise, go to Exit 74 (Simco Road) about 2 miles past the State Stop (about 20 miles from Boise).